

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 JUSE-00 SY-04 DRC-01 /060 W

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R 011300Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5930

INFO DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, PINT, JM

SUBJECT: OPERATION BUCCANEER: REVIEW WITH MINISTER MATALON

1. AMBASSADOR AND DEA OFFICERS SHANLEY AND STARK MET WITH MINISTER MATALON SEPTEMBER 27 TO REVIEW BUCCANEER. U.S. SIDE DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER POINT BY POINT INFORMAL PAPER IT HAD PREPARED ANALYZING EXPERIENCE TO DATE, AND SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT IN GOJ COMMAND AND CONTROL, ERADICATION EFFORT, INTERDICTION AND INVESTIGATIONS, AND GOJ RESOURCE COMMITMENTS. MATALON AGREED WITH US ANALYSIS AND SAID HE WOULD MEET WITH HIS ADVISORS SOONEST TO DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS.

2. FOLLOWING GENERAL REVIEW, MATALON WITH SOME VEHEMENCE CRITICIZED LACK OF SUCCESS IN CATCHING AND PROSECUTING US-BASED CRIMINALS WHO CONTROL GANJA TRADE. "WE ARE PICKING UP THE LOCAL SMALL FRY AND NOT THE AMERICAN CONTACT MEN WHO ARE SETTING UP THE MAJOR PURCHASES...WE NEED TO GET SOMEONE WHO CAN HELP US BREAK BERNSTEIN...WHAT IS YOUR COMMITMENT TO KNOCKING HIM OFF...I AM BEGINNING TO WONDER." MATALON WENT ON TO DECRY WHAT HE FELT WAS LACK OF VIGOROUS FOLLOWUP IN U.S. ON INTELLIGENCE DEVELOPED LOCALLY, AND DEARTH OF INTELLIGENCE HE RECEIVING FROM USG ON ACTIVITIES U.S.--BASED KINGPINS. "HOW MUCH HARD INTELLIGENCE DO I GET AND WHEN?...THE INVESTIGATIVE ASPECT OF BUCCANEER IS THE MOST IMPORTANT...WE HAVE TO GET THE BERNSTEINS IF IT IS

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TO BE EFFECTIVE..ERADICATION, WHILE NECESSARY AND

APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL-ONLY AFFECTS THIS YEAR'S CROP."

3. MATALON RHETORICALLY ASKED "HOW MANY U.S. PILOTS CONVICTED IN JAMAICA ON GANJA OR RELATED CHARGES HAVE HAD THEIR PILOT'S LICENSES REVOKED." AMBASSADOR SAID HE DID NOT KNOW OFFHAND BUT IF MINISTER PROVIDED HIM LIST THOSE PILOTS CONVICTED HE WOULD ASSURE IT PLACED IN RIGHT HANDS FOR ACTION.

4. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED VISIT AMB. VANCE OCTOBER 6-8 AND SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE USEFUL DISCUSS POINTS RAISED BY MINISTER AT THAT TIME.

5. COMMENT: INTENSITY MATALON'S COMMITMENT TO SUCCESS BUCCANEER EVIDENT FROM MEETING. WE HOPEFULLY WILL KNOW BY END OF WEEK HOW MANY OF OUR SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS HE READY AND CAPABLE OF ADOPTING.

6. MATALON IS PREOCCUPIED WITH "GETTING THE GOODS" ON BERNSTEIN AND HIS ILK. MEETING WITH AMB. VANCE HOPEFULLY WILL HELP IN DISPELLING ANY DOUBTS HE HAS ON THE VIGOR OF OUR INVESTIGATORY EFFORTS AGAINST US-BASED DIRECTORS OF GANJA TRADE.
GERARD

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